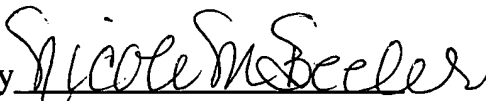


REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Covington for speaking with their representative, Nicole Beeler, on October 14, 2004. Claims 1-9, 19, 22-41 remain pending in the instant application after the foregoing amendments. Claim 41 has been added. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended. Claims 10-18 and 20-21 have been cancelled without prejudice. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification as originally filed.

If a telephonic communication with the Applicants' representative will advance the prosecution of the instant application, please telephone the representative indicated below. Applicants believe no additional fees are due but the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees required in connection with this response to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Nicole M. Beeler

Reg. No. 45,194

Attorney for Applicants

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Date: October 29, 2004